

ABSTRACT

This invention relates generally to the design and manufacture of high performance, composite, tubular structures. More specifically, the invention relates to a high performance, composite, tubular structure that utilizes an integral pattern of ribs on the internal diameter ("ID") or outer diameter ("OD") surface of the tube. The present invention provides high performance, composite, tubular structures that are both lighter and stiffer than conventional tubes. In general, the present invention incorporates unconventional features into the design of tubular structures, to greatly enhance performance. For example, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention, tubular structures are enhanced by incorporating small, stabilizing, raised ribs on the ID of the tubes.

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